In the Claims

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.   (Currently amended)   A wireless communication system protocol comprising:

a wireless MAC layer providing for MAC layer acknowledgments; and

a TCP layer providing for TCP layer acknowledgments, wherein at least ~~some~~ one TCP layer acknowledgment[s] is ~~are~~ buffered by the wireless MAC layer and appended to a <u>wireless</u> MAC layer acknowledgment of <u>a</u> ~~another~~ MAC layer message.

2.   (Original)   The wireless communication system protocol of Claim 1 wherein the wireless MAC layer is a modified CSMA/CA layer.

3.   (Original)   The wireless communication system protocol of Claim 1 wherein the appending of a TCP layer acknowledgment to a MAC layer acknowledgment is done under conditions of asymmetrical traffic.

4.   (Original)   The wireless communication system protocol of Claim 1 wherein the combined MAC layer acknowledgment and TCP layer acknowledgment does not need to contend for the wireless medium.

5.   (Original)   The wireless communication system protocol of Claim 1 wherein the TCP layer acknowledgments are done in response to messages from another node.

6.   (Original)   The wireless communication system protocol of Claim 5 wherein the other node appends an acknowledgment of the transmitted TCP layer acknowledgment along with another message transmitted by the other node.

7.   (Original)   The wireless communication system protocol of Claim 1 wherein a MAC acknowledgment is sent to provide MAC layer acknowledgment of receipt of TCP acknowledgment appended message.

8.   (Original)   The wireless communication system protocol of Claim 1 wherein the TCP acknowledgment is sent only when link quality is very good.

9.   (Currently amended)   A method for operating a MAC layer comprising:

    obtaining a TCP acknowledgment form a TCP layer, the TCP layer producing the TCP acknowledgment when a predetermined number of TCP messages are received;

    buffering the TCP acknowledgment; and

    appending the TCP acknowledgment to a MAC acknowledgment of another message.

10.   (Original)   The method of Claim 9 wherein the MAC layer comprises a modified CSMA/CA protocol.

11.   (Original)   The method of Claim 9 wherein the other node appends another acknowledgment to a message in response to the TCP acknowledgment.